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An Ashley Genealogy

BY

JONATHAN PORTER ASHLEY

A paper read at the

ANNUAL MEETING

of the

Pocumtuck Valley
Memorial Association

February 26th, 1924

DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
1924



An Valley Genealogy

BY

LOVELL H. BOSTER, SMITH

A History of the

VALLEY REGION

IN

Pennsylvania Valley

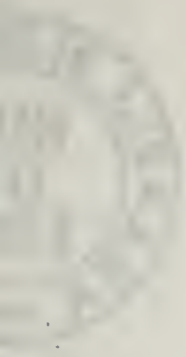
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An Ashley Genealogy

"I have erected a monument more lasting than brass, and loftier than the royal structure of the Pyramids." Thus sang the poet Horace, the friend of Augustus Caesar. With equal justice would each of the original settlers of Deerfield and other Connecticut valley towns, whose line endures to-day, have spoken, could he have foreseen the parts which his descendants were destined to play in the events, peaceful or stirring, which have taken place since the early settlement of these old, historic towns. The deeds of Allen, Arms, Barnard, Dickinson, Hawks, Nims, Sheldon, Stebbins, Wells, Williams and many others, have been chronicled in prose or verse; their names are writ in living letters on stone and bronze. Their children's children have gloried in their birthrights, have revered their memories, and have ever kept the priceless heritage of a noble ancestry before their eyes to guide their feet that they may walk in paths worthy of their names.

The Ashleys, too, are of this race. From Robert Ashley, who is first recorded in Springfield in the year 1638-9, to the present day, they have continued in unbroken succession, and have been actively identified with the history of Springfield, Westfield, Deerfield and other nearby towns. In their various walks of life they have ever been an integral part of the community life, sometimes as leaders, and sometimes as supporters of those who had the public welfare at heart. We read of Lieut. Jonathan Ashley, 1678-1749, the period of French and Indian wars; of Rev. Jonathan Ashley, 1712-1780, who was the second ordained minister of Deerfield; of his son, Dr. Elihu Ashley, 1750-1817; of Colonel Thomas Williams Ashley, 1776-1848, who commanded a company of Massachusetts militia

at the time of the war of 1812; and lastly of Lieut. Thomas Williams Ashley, who responded to the call of our country and who made the supreme sacrifice at Belleau Woods in 1918.

This paper is written in no spirit of vainglory or idle boasting. It is inspired by an honest pride in one's ancestry, and the writer has two objects in mind for the purpose of writing his narrative; first, that an account of his lineage may be publicly recorded in the proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, where it will remain indestructible for all time; and second, that others may emulate his example and thus fulfill in a larger sense the purpose of the association to link the past with the present. The principal sources of material, and the authorities used are: "The Ashley Genealogy," by Francis Bacon Trowbridge, and the "History of Deerfield" by the Hon. George Sheldon. Where other sources are used, reference will be made to the authority, and the greatest care will be maintained that this be a true record of one particular branch of the Ashley family. The writer realizes the magnitude of his task, and enters upon the undertaking with no little trepidation.

Robert Ashley is first recorded as a resident of Springfield on January 13, 1638-9. As yet we have no record of his birth or parentage. The coat of arms used by the family is that of Ashley of Lowesby, County of Leicester, England. It is: Argent a lion rampant sable crowned or. While it is probable that Robert Ashley may have sprung from a branch of this family, the English records have not been searched and there is no proof that the two families are of the same lineage. This opens a rich field for future investigation and will un-

doubtedly be undertaken when time and finances are available for the purpose.

Savage, the foremost genealogist of early New England families, says in Vol. 1, Genealogical Record: "Robert Ashley, Springfield 1639, perhaps had been of Roxbury a short time, as most of the early Springfield people were drawn from Roxbury by Pyncheon." Davis, in his Genealogical Register, Vol. II, page 394, writes as follows: "Robert Ashley, the only male bearing the name of Ashley that came from the mother country, settled in Springfield in 1639."

The fact stands proven that Robert Ashley was in Springfield in 1638-9 and that he had reached man's estate, as shown by the assessment of £1 16 shillings, levied upon him for his share in a portion of the expense of the minister's residence and maintenance. Mr. Trowbridge has verified the above statement and has compiled the facts concerning the earlier records of the descendants of Robert Ashley by means of a personal search of the public records. The writer has accepted Mr. Trowbridge's statements as proven in full, since a separate investigation would probably be but a duplication of effort. The burden of the task now consists of separating the important from the non-essential, and of writing a full and complete account of this line of the Ashley family without its being dull and tedious. We are now ready to begin our work, starting with Robert Ashley, 1638-9, and ending with Thomas Williams Ashley, 1918, a period of 270 years, wherein descent is traced in unbroken line through the 9th generation.

Springfield was first settled about the year 1636. On the 14th of May of that year, Mr. William Pyncheon, his son-in-law Henry Smith, Mathew Mitchell and five others entered into an agreement for the government of the settlement, the allotment of lands, etc. Robert Ashley first participated in the allotment of lands on record on Jan. 5, 1640-1. Single persons were allotted land

8 rods in breadth, married men, 10 rods in breadth, and those with larger families, 12 rods in breadth. Robert Ashley had lot No. 3, of 8 rods, being unmarried, situated between Widow Searle and John Dibble. Previous to this allotment we may note that in the aforementioned apportionment for the minister's expense, Robert Ashley was fifth in amount on the list, coming next to Mr. Pyncheon, Mr. Holyoke, Mr. Moxon, the minister, and Henry Smith.

Mr. Pyncheon, being the chief magistrate of the settlement as well as its founder, records on pages 19 and 20 of his records under the date of Aug. 7, 1641, that he has given permission to the Widow Horton and Robert Ashley, both of Springfield, "to proceed in marriage when they please," both having acknowledged their desire and intention before him. The record is interesting but lengthy. I will simply note the inventory of the Widow Horton's worldly goods which she assigned to Mr. Ashley at their marriage, to be held in trust by him for her two young sons until they become of age:

"Imprimis for all her linnen, brasse, pewter, beddings, vessels & other implements £17; her hoggs little & great as they were rated by the appraisers of the Town rate, £18; her house & house lot, £12."

It would be interesting to know what kind of, and how many "hoggs" the good widow kept to be worth more than a house and lot on Main street, Springfield, even in those early days. This marriage is not recorded in the Springfield records, but it undoubtedly took place, since after 1641, the Widow Horton's name disappears from the records.

Robert Ashley's home lot was on what is now the northwest corner of Main and State streets and it extended down to the river. Francis Ball was his neighbor on the north, and John Leonard on the south. His "wet meadow" and "wood lots," just opposite, extended back along State street to what is now Spring street. His land in the "planting

grounds" was across the Connecticut River, and between it and the Agawam River. In 1647 he was taxed on 51 acres, being exceeded in number of acres by only the four men already mentioned.

Like most of the inhabitants, Robert Ashley was chiefly occupied with agriculture. His ear mark for his cattle was: "in the off ear a slit cut in the under side or back side of the ear (not at ye top of ye ear), but toward ye root of ye ear, the slit is but a little slanting outward toward ye root of ye ear." This mark was still used for the Ashley cattle in Deerfield to within the last 20 years.

In the year 1646 Robert Ashley was licensed to keep the ordinary, being so engaged for several years. This was a highly respectable position and was only filled by those who were considered responsible persons. The Pyncheon records show the copy of an order of restraint forbidding him to sell wine or strong waters to the Indians. Selling these goods to the English was not, however, forbidden. The Town Records likewise show that land on Mill River was granted to Mr. Ashley on condition that he keep the ordinary. When he resigned his position in the fall of 1660, this land was then granted to Samuel Marshfield.

In 1661 Robert Ashley, having acquired considerable land on the west side of the Connecticut River, now known as West Springfield, was granted a house lot "provided that he build and dwell there," and in March of that year he had "liberty to build on his land towards ye round hill." This is in the section now known as Riverdale. He probably built his house on the hill soon after this and lived there the remaining 20 years of his life.

Mr. Ashley frequently served as a juryman, his first appearance in the records of the court being on Jan. 2, 1639-40. He served in that capacity in 1654, 1661, 1662, 1664, 1667, and 1670. He himself had little use for court proceedings, only four minor complaints being entered for or against him. As a town

official he figured prominently. On Nov. 3, 1646, Robert Ashley and Miles Morgan, whose statue is now seen in Court Square, Springfield, were chosen by the town to act as fence viewers. On Nov. 5, 1650, he was chosen with William Wariner, for the same capacity. In 1651-2, and in 1667, Mr. Ashley was one of the "surveyors of highways." He was elected one of five selectmen in 1653 and was reelected annually until 1659, being again elected in 1660, 1662 and 1665. He was first selectman in 1657. He took the oath of fidelity on March 23, 1655-6. Mr. Ashley was chosen town constable on Feb. 7th, 1659, and sealer of weights and measures on March 5th of the same year.

Holding public office was a serious business in those days. On Sept. 27, 1664, Robert Ashley and Jonathan Burt were presented to the court for not having viewed a fence on the east side of the river. They were directed to pay a fine of 20 shillings unless they could prove that they had received no legal warning of their appointment from the selectmen. In April 1665 Mr. Ashley and several others were fined for absenting themselves from town meeting. How times have changed!

In the religious life of the settlement Robert Ashley took much interest. Whenever it was necessary to raise money for the minister's support he invariably paid his share. On the first list of seatings in the meeting-house, dated Dec. 23, 1659, Mr. Ashley sat in the first seat and was a member of the seating committee. He was on the same committee in 1663.

Robert Ashley and his two oldest sons were among the 62 inhabitants of Springfield who signed the petition against "a custome imposed on all goods and merchandizes" by an order of the General Court at the October session in 1668. He took the oath of allegiance with the other Springfield inhabitants on Dec. 31, 1678.

I have selected the foregoing information concerning Robert Ashley from the "Ashley Genealogy," wherein is contained all the refer-

ences to him that the compiler could find in the various records. To quote further: "He [Robert Ashley] was obviously a man of energy and ability, and that these qualities were recognized by his fellow townsmen is shown by his election to discharge the duties described. His education had not been such as to qualify him for the performance of some important duties in the administration of the town." He did not write his own name, but made his mark, which was something like the Greek F, whenever his signature was necessary. "He is called Goodman Ashley in Mr. Pyncheon's account books. He seems to have been industrious, upright and public spirited, and a man of strong, religious principles." He died Nov. 29, 1682, and his wife on Sept. 19, 1683, both in West Springfield. Their ages are unknown and their graves cannot be located.

The will of Robert Ashley, "signed and sealed in ye presence of John Pynchon, Sen. and John Holyoke" is on record in the Hampshire County Probate Records. His property inventoried a total of £492, of which £347 consisted of real estate. Robert and Mary Ashley had six children, all born in Springfield, Mass., of whom David, born June 3, 1642, is the only one with whom we are now concerned.

David Ashley, son of Robert the Settler, married Hannah Glover in New Haven, Nov. 24, 1663. Their first three and one-half years of married life were spent in Springfield. On Feb. 8, 1663-4 he received a 30-acre grant at Woronoco on condition that he "pay the Indians for his purchase within three years and go there to dwell." He also had confirmed to him the title to land grants made in that region to his father in 1661. The Woronoco of that time is the present town of Westfield and Mr. Ashley was one of the original grantees of land on the Fort side (Main St.) on July 6, 1666. This land was to be settled "in their own persons on the last of May next." He probably removed with his family to Westfield in the spring of 1667, settling near

the confluence of Great and Little rivers, and styling himself "yeoman." In March, 1699, Sacketts creek was granted to Joseph Whiting and David Ashley "to set a mill thereon and grind corn." During King Philip's war he was one of a committee of three who went to Boston in 1676 to protest against the abandonment of the town by the government because the cost of maintaining the scattered settlements along the Connecticut was considered too great. His house was one of those selected to be "forted" by vote of the town on June 9, 1712 in Queen Anne's war.

On Nov. 18, 1696, Mr. Ashley was one of a committee of four chosen to "prise all lands in Westfield, and stock all yt is above one year old, and yt all heads should bee apprised at 10 pound pr head to defray town charges." To quote from Trowbridge: "David Ashley was prominent in the management of Westfield's affairs and held a number of responsible offices. He served as a juror in 1665; he was elected a selectman in 1676, 77, 79 to 1685, 1694 and 1699; Clerk of the Writs in 1678, 1686 and 1690, and treasurer of the town in 1694. He performed the duties of all these and other less important offices in a manner satisfactory to the town and creditable to himself, and was highly respected. He united with the Westfield church, Jan. 1, 1679-80, five months after its organization, and took the freeman's oath at a court held in Springfield on Sept. 28, 1680."

David Ashley died on Dec. 8, 1718, and his wife Hannah on June 7, 1722. They are both buried in the old Westfield cemetery, where their weather-beaten grave-stones are still to be seen, being among the oldest in the cemetery. The inventory of his estate, taken Jan. 6, 1718-19 amounted to £270 and included 97 acres of land besides his home lot and homestead, and a "lot in ye Fort Meadow." Eleven children were born to them, of whom the eighth, Jonathan, born June 21, 1678, is the next in succession for our narrative.

Jonathan Ashley, son of David

and grandson of Robert the Settler, also settled in Westfield, not, however, on his father's homelot, which was willed to his brothers, Samuel and David. He styled himself "husbandman," was a considerable land owner in Westfield and was one of the original grantees of the Housatonic lands. He married Abigail Stebbins of Springfield on Feb. 1, 1699-1700.

At this point a little excursion into the realm of history will not be amiss as showing something of the dangers and perils attendant upon those who had the temerity to dwell in such unprotected outposts of civilization as our own Connecticut river towns and villages. The situation was identical in Deerfield, Westfield, Hadley and the neighboring settlements nor did anything like a sense of security come until after the fall of the French power in America and the dispersal of their savage allies.

In the year 1689, Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac was, for the second time, appointed Governor of New France by His Most Christian Majesty Louis XIV, styled "Le Grande Monarque." A short time before the arrival of Frontenac the French possessions in Canada were almost wiped out by the fierce Iroquois in a series of attacks and massacres, of which that of La Chine was typical, brought on by the treachery and oppression of the preceding incompetent governors. Frontenac proved equal to the occasion and, propitiating the Five Nations for the time being until he had broken their power some eight years later, he proceeded to carry out the most unchristian orders of King Louis and exterminate the English settlers by every means within his power. The attack on Schenectady in 1690, with its usual massacre, was made by about 250 men, half of them French and the remainder Huron Indians, under French leadership. This attack inaugurated a dreary succession of such expeditions which continued with more or less frequency for almost 70 years until the capture of Quebec put an end forever to French dominion in America. The story of the attack

on Deerfield in 1704, which we annually commemorate by these meetings, is too well known to bear repetition. The strong were shot down, the weak tomahawked. Happy the fate of those killed outright compared to the struggles and sufferings of those who were snatched from their warm homes by savage hands and forced to undergo the terrible hardships of the winter march to Canada, uncertain of the fate awaiting them there. Their friends murdered, families separated and scattered, homes and crops burned, verily, these hardy pioneers must indeed have been possessed of a sublime faith in God to have continued their existence in this valley amid so much stress and woe.

The English, however, were not submitting to their fate without an effort on their part to resist the fierce marauders. Although unorganized and extremely jealous of each other and continually quarreling, the colonies managed to place armies in the field from time to time, and with the assistance of a few regiments of English regulars, made ineffectual war upon their enemies. The capture of Louisburg in 1745, by Pepperell and his raw, undisciplined New England militia was the first gleam of hope to the distressed country. An incident of the siege as told by Cyrus Townsend Brady is worthy of note. The Grand Battery, one of the main defenses of the town, contained 28 forty-two pound guns and two long eighteen pounders. A young officer named Vaughan, with 400 men, was sent by Pepperell to burn some barns near the battery. Later in the day with 13 men he made a reconnoissance of the fort which to his astonished senses appeared deserted. He verified this fact by bribing a wandering Indian with a flask of whisky to ascertain the truth of the matter. On the latter proving that the French had indeed left, Vaughan immediately took possession and sent the following note to his commander: "May it please your Honor to be informed that by the grace of God and the courage of 13 men, I entered the Royal Battery about 9 o'clock and am waiting for a re-

inforcement and a flag." Alas, their heroism was in vain for Louisburg although captured by the New Englanders, was returned to France by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and French it remained until taken in 1758 by the sturdy determination of Lord Amherst and the mighty genius of James Wolfe.

The defeat of the unfortunate Braddock in 1755 laid open the frontiers from New England to the Carolinas to the unchecked raids and massacres of the French and Indians. The disastrous expedition of Lord Loudon in 1757 against the French at Lake George encouraged the latter still more. Nor was Abercrombie's attack on 'Ticonderoga in the following year productive of anything but failure. Here it was that Brigadier General George Augustus, Viscount Howe, said by all to be the finest gentleman and soldier ever sent by England to America, was killed in a forest skirmish and, as Parkman says: "The death of one man became the doom of 15,000."

All of these expeditions and many others not mentioned here, were accompanied by companies of scouts or rangers as they were called, made up of the more hardy colonials who were accustomed to hunting and life in the woods, Rodgers' Rangers being perhaps the most famous of them. These men were as experienced as the Indians themselves in border warfare and were at any time liable to call from their peaceful pursuits on the farm, or in the village to march against the cruel foe. According to the Massachusetts Archives, the name of Jonathan Ashley is on the muster roll of Capt. Adijah Dewey's company of troopers raised for scouting in 1723, and he served from Sept. 3rd to Sept. 25th of that year. He was a few years later chosen lieutenant of the Westfield company, and was known by that title. Although we have no record of his further military experiences, he probably had frequent occasion for fighting because Westfield itself was a frontier town in those times as evidenced by the fact that several of its houses were "forted."

Lieut. Ashley held a number of town offices. He was chosen viewer in 1703, town surveyor in 1705, constable in 1711, and selectman in 1725 and 1734. He also served as moderator and was a member of the school committee. He died Sept. 18th, 1749, and his wife Abigail on Apr. 6th, 1752. Both are buried in Westfield. They had eight children, one of whom, Rev. Jonathan Ashley, born Nov. 11th, 1712, became the second ordained minister of Deerfield.

Jonathan Ashley, great-grandson of the first Robert, was a remarkable man. His brilliant mind inherited the steadfast faith of the pioneer combined with the keen thinking of the Indian fighter. He graduated from Yale in 1730 and studied theology the following year. On Jan. 9, 1731, the town of Deerfield voted "to invite ye Worthy Mr. Jonathan Ashley to preach the Gospel here a few Sabbaths," and voted on Feb. 7th, to hire him for two months. On Apr. 10th, he was chosen minister of the town by a large majority. He accepted, and was ordained second pastor of the Congregational church in Deerfield on Nov. 8, 1732. The ordination sermon, delivered by Rev. William Williams of Hatfield, was entitled "The Work of Ministers and the Duty of Hearers, asserted and enforced." In those times ministers were chosen by the town, the parish being a later institution. A minister usually held office for life or during good behavior, unless resigning of his own accord. Mr. Ashley served as minister in Deerfield for 48 years, until his death in 1780, a splendid record even for Puritan New England. The Deerfield church records, kept by him, show that he married 442 persons, the first couple being Benj. Melvin and Mehitable Smead on Nov. 30, 1732, and the last pair being Justin Hitchcock and Mercy Hoit on Nov. 25, 1779.

On June 28, 1733, Rev. Mr. Ashley bought of John Wells the house lot in Deerfield which has become the present Ashley Homestead. This was Lot No. 2 as laid out in the division of the Town Plat, on May 14th, 1671. I quote from Mr. Shel-

don's History: "No. 2.—Eleazer Lusher. He sold to John Pynchon, who in 1683 sold it to Lieut. Thomas Wells for £50. It was here that the murderous assault was made upon Widow Wells and her children in 1693. In 1720 Lieut. Thomas Wells sells to Thomas Wells, cordwainer, for £50. In 1721 Wells sells to Moses Nash and Nash to John Wells in 1726, who probably built a house on it. June 28, 1733, John Wells sold the place for £250 to Rev. Jonathan Ashley, who had been settled here as the minister the year before. Through his son Elihu, doctor and farmer, and his grandson, Thomas W., farmer, it came to Jonathan Ashley, who left it to his nephew, Charles Hart Ashley, the present owner." The original deed from John Wells to Rev. Jonathan Ashley, in the possession of Charles Hart Ashley, is before me. Stripped of its legal terms and aspects it reads somewhat as follows: "I, John Wells of Deerfield in the County of Hampshire and province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Husbandman, for £251, sell to Jonathan Ashley, one house lot situate, Lying and Being in the township of Deerfield abovesaid abutting on the town street East and on the land of Capt. Thomas Wells West. Bounded on land of John Nym's North and on land of John Sheldon Deceased his heirs South, together with the Edifices thereon, containing By Estimation three acres Be it more or less. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twenty-eighth day of June Anno Domini 1733 & in sixth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second King Defender of the faith." We give little thought in these modern times whether or not George the Second was ever "our Sovereign Lord," or "King, Defender of the faith" or anything else. This deed was received and recorded in Springfield on Sept. 22, 1752, by Edward Pynchon, Registrar. Mr. Ashley on Apr. 20th, 1773, bought of Ebenezer and Abner Arms, yeomen, for £35, Lot No. 4 in the south half of Deerfield, northwest division, containing 104 acres, bounded

on the east by the Seven Mile Line (so called). This lot is now known as the Old World pasture and is still owned by his heirs. Mr. Ashley also owned more or less land on the East mountain including a part of what is now the home pasture of the Ashley farm. His consent was necessary before the town could sell the land on the south side of the Albany road, which had been reserved for the minister's use during the pastorate of Rev. John Williams, the first minister.

Rev. Jonathan Ashley was opposed to the great revival of 1740. He and his cousin and classmate, Rev. Joseph Ashley of Sunderland, took similar positions in the religious controversies of the time which were often very bitter and acrimonious. He was an active antagonist of Jonathan Edwards in the controversy which resulted in the dismissal of the latter from Northampton, and delivered two sermons there Feb. 10, 1750, as an antidote to Mr. Edwards' preaching. Who was this Jonathan Edwards? Hear what John Fiske says about him, who is considered by Fiske to be probably the greatest intelligence that the western hemisphere has yet seen: "From early childhood Edwards was a personage manifestly set apart for some high calling. His 'Notes on Nature,' written at the age of 16, show a precocity as remarkable as that of Pascal; his Treatise on the Will and other works of his maturity show a metaphysical power comparable with that of Kant or Berkeley; while in many of his speculations his mind moves through the loftiest regions of thought with a sustained strength of flight that comes near reminding one of the mighty Spinoza. Among writers of Christian theology his place is by the side of Augustine, Aquinas, and Calvin. His character was as great as his genius. He was a man of deep affection, abounding in sympathy, so that without resorting to the ordinary devices of rhetoric he became a preacher of the first order. Along with Edwards' abstruse reasoning there was a spiritual consciousness as deep as that of Spinoza or Novalis."

Against such a man, Jonathan Ashley was a leader in the spiritual attack which resulted in the overthrow of Edwards. The main point at issue in this controversy seems to be the interpretation of the scriptures in regard to baptism and communion, Edwards holding to the stricter doctrine that only the converted who lived lives in harmony with their conversion were entitled to these rites, while Mr. Ashley took the more liberal view that any who might so desire were entitled to the benefit of baptism and participation in the communion. Truly it seems a small matter to us to wax angry over, but that was before the days of the tariff, coal strikes and labor troubles.

In politics the Rev. Jonathan Ashley was a Tory. To a man of his principle it would have seemed criminal to pray for the overthrow of the King for whose welfare he had consistently prayed during the many years of his pastorate. Indeed, the disordered state of the colonies, especially during the critical years following the war, seemed more than once to fulfill his prediction, that "we are an undone people." It needed the courage and faith of George Washington, the transcendent wisdom of John Marshall, and the tender forbearance of Abraham Lincoln to weld these turbulent states into a single entity which is now the United States of America and which would have seemed a dream impossible of fulfillment to Mr. Ashley.

In 1736, Jonathan Ashley married Dorothy Williams of Hatfield, whose father, Rev. William Williams, preached the ordination sermon already mentioned. She was a granddaughter of Rev. Solomon Stoddard and therefore a second cousin to Rev. Jonathan Edwards (Judd Manuscript, Vol. 4, p. 502, Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.) Mr. Ashley is thus described by his successor in the Deerfield pulpit, Rev. John Taylor: "Mr. Ashley possessed a strong and discriminating mind, and a lively imagination, and was a pungent and energetic preacher. He preached the doctrines of grace with a pathos

which was the effect, not merely of his assent to the divine authority, but of a deep sense and lively view of their importance and excellency." Jonathan Edwards characterized him as "a young gentleman of liberal education and notable abilities; a fluent speaker; a man of lax principles in religion, falling in, in some essential things, with the Arminians, and is very bold and open in it." He is described by other authority as a man of ready talents, excelling in biblical knowledge. Further references to him may be found in Mr. Sheldon's History of Deerfield and in a paper on "Rev. Jonathan Ashley" by Rev. Edgar Buckingham, read at the annual meeting of this society in 1887 and printed in the Proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association.

The "bullet-proof" house built in 1733 by Mr. Ashley still stands but, O Tempora! O Mores! how are the mighty fallen! That building, erected for and dedicated to the use of the servant of the Lord, was removed to the rear in 1869 to make room for the modern farm house, and converted into a tobacco barn! The great hand-hewn pine beams and oaken braces speak well of the honest toil and the honest home-brewed ale that raised them to their lofty places. The panelling and moulding is still intact in places, but what of the people who frequent it and what language do they speak? The rooms once echoing with learned arguments concerning predestination and free-will, now resound with the jokes and care-free laughter of a gang of tobacco-strippers. Where once perhaps the desk of the Rev. Jonathan Ashley stood, an anvil now reposes. If one is looking for a hammer and some nails, a hoe or a cultivator, he is told to find it "down to the Old House." The winds of heaven for almost 200 years have whispered strange tales of war and rumors of war to its overhanging eaves. The west wind brought tidings of the massacre at Fort William Henry and the expeditions against Ticonderoga and Crown Point. The north wind told of the fierce struggle on the

Plains of Abraham when two heroes met in mortal combat and the loss to France was England's gain. The east wind spread the news of Lexington and Bunker Hill and the echoes of the "shot heard 'round the world," falling, alas, unheeded on the ears of the Tory parson. The south wind carried the booming of the guns of Gettysburg and Chickamauga and the tones of the joy-bells after Appomattox, changing soon to sadness for the death of a beloved Captain. And lastly, the storms from across the sea have told the tale of Prussian hate and Hunnish violence which set the alarm bells ringing from the Atlantic to the broad Pacific and from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, and which led the great-grandson of the grandson of the Rev. Jonathan Ashley to his glorious death on the field of honor in far-away France, where he now sleeps. Perhaps some day this old house can be restored. It stands to-day one of the oldest houses in the town and has been in the family almost as long as its neighbor on the south has been in the Sheldon family.

Rev. Jonathan Ashley died Aug. 28, 1780, and his wife, Dorothy, Sept. 20, 1808, at the age of 95. Their gravestones are to be found in the Old Cemetery in Deerfield, that of Mr. Ashley being inscribed as follows: "In Memory of Rev. Jonathan Ashley Who Died Aug. 28, 1780 in the 68 yr of his Age & 48 of his Ministry, leaving a name dear to his Friends and Acquaintances for his social, kind & pleasing Deportment, in particular his Zeal in the Cause of Christianity which, united with superior knowledge & a ready utterance of Moral & Divine truths, rendered him a shining light in the station where God had placed him." Nine children were born to them and the seventh, Elihu, is the next Ashley to claim our attention.

Elihu Ashley was born Aug. 12, 1750, in Deerfield. While a young man he studied medicine with his future father-in-law, Dr. Thomas Williams, a distinguished physician and prominent citizen of Deerfield. In 1774, Elihu began to practice his

profession in Worthington, Mass., but he returned to Deerfield the following year and succeeded to Dr. Williams' office and practice. He continued in active practice until his death, a period of over 40 years, and was a highly respected citizen.

In politics Elihu Ashley began as a Tory, like many of the gentry of that time. Mr. Sheldon states that, during the period immediately preceding the Revolutionary war, in the town of Deerfield, "the minister, the judge, the sheriff, the esquire, the three doctors, the town clerk and treasurer, one store keeper, two of the three tavern keepers, most of those who had held commissions from the King in the late wars, and generally the young bloods who were looking forward to places of honor or office from royalty, were loyal to the source of power." During the summer of 1774, Elihu was engaged in helping his brother, Esq. Jonathan Ashley "draw writs" against the Whigs. For his activity in the Tory cause, Esq. Jonathan was eventually cast into jail in Boston, whence he emerged after a short confinement, broken in spirit and in health. In 1786 Squire Jonathan Ashley sold his place in Deerfield, the lot where George Wright now lives, and removed to Shelburne where he died the following year.

Dr. Elihu Ashley was not as energetic as his brother in defense of the King's cause and he evidently changed his politics during the war. He had gained the respect and confidence of his fellow townspeople to the extent that he was elected selectman in 1783, 84, 89, and 1790. As Tories were not especially well thought of after the war, it is apparent that Dr. Elihu had become as strong a Whig as his brother and father were Tories.

While a student in the office of Dr. Williams, Elihu kept a diary which is preserved in Memorial Hall. Mr. Sheldon has quoted at length from this diary as depicting real life in Deerfield in those days. One gains the impression that Elihu was susceptible to the charms of the fair sex and that he underwent the trials and vicissitudes which ac-

company the affairs of the heart usually experienced by young men. However, in the end, he was successful and on Nov. 2nd, 1775, he married his cousin, Mary Cook Williams (the "Polly" of the diary), daughter of Dr. Thomas and Esther (Williams) Williams, and niece of Col. Ephriam Williams, the founder of Williams college.

By his father's will, Elihu Ashley received two-ninths of the real estate after his mother's dower rights had been deducted. He proceeded to buy out his brothers and sisters and evidently combined his practice of medicine with the occupation of farming. Like all of the Ashleys he developed a propensity for buying more land, a fact which, while at times has been a blessing to the family, has often proved to be a curse, especially in these later times of high costs and small returns. I have endeavored to locate most of the land in Deerfield bought by the Rev. Jonathan Ashley and his son, Dr. Elihu, but I will admit that I have found it to be a baffling proposition. Many of the deeds give boundaries on land of men long since dead, no courses and distances being given; others run the lines to a "chestnut tree" or some like object; some are bounded on the Deerfield River, which has often changed its course; while the west boundary of the Little Plain lot is the "Plain Swamp Drain," with a note on the deed stating that "The drain making the west bound of said land is the one where the water has run for many years past." Evidently the farmers and lawyers of early days gave little thought to their posterity.

Dr. Elihu Ashley died in Deerfield on Mar. 14, 1817, and his wife on Jan. 2, 1831. They had four children, of whom Thomas Williams Ashley, born Aug. 16, 1776, is next in succession.

Thomas Williams Ashley was the first Deerfield Ashley to make farming his main occupation in life, and he laid the foundations for the large Ashley farm which was brought to its present proportions by his son Jonathan ("Uncle John"), and the latter's nephew, Charles H. Ashley.

Upon the death of his father in 1817, Thomas W. Ashley inherited all of the real estate (except the dower rights of his mother), his brother Robert, who followed Dr. Elihu's profession and who moved to Lyons, N. Y., receiving a legacy in cash, chargable upon the estate. By 1839 Thomas W. Ashley had increased his heritage to a total of 351 acres which, with a tax rate of \$10.50 cost him \$50.70 in taxes. His was the sixth in amount of taxes paid for that year, Asa Stebbins heading the list with \$150.83. Of the land now owned by Charles H. Ashley the following tracts were in the possession of Thomas W. Ashley, either by inheritance or by purchase: Home lot 3½ acres, Little Plain 30 acres, Old World pasture 110 acres, Neck lot 6½ acres, and mowing pasture 5½ acres. In addition Mr. Ashley had acquired the Ball farm on East mountain, containing 190 acres. Whereas his forebears had bought land in Bernardston, Westfield and Deerfield, apparently for speculation, Mr. Ashley evidently bought with the idea of permanent possession. However, he became involved financially and in 1843 he mortgaged his entire property to Isaac Abercrombie of Greenfield, from whom it was redeemed in 1849 by his sons, Jonathan and Thomas W. Ashley.

At the outbreak of the war of 1812 the north company of Deerfield infantry was officered by Capt. Thomas W. Ashley, Lieut. Charles Hitchcock and Ens. Josiah Lyman Arms, but Mr. Sheldon could find no evidence that either the north or south company went to Boston for reorganization, although several companies from the surrounding towns made the march under orders from General Maltby of Hatfield. Capt. Ashley was later commissioned colonel of a cavalry regiment in the Massachusetts militia, and was known in after years as "Colonel Tom." Mr. Sheldon is authority for the fact that he was one of the earliest to substitute a cooking stove for the fireplace. This was before the year 1825.

In 1814 Col. Thomas W. Ashley married Lydia Crosby of Enfield,

Mass. Seven children were born to them. His third son, Thomas Williams Ashley, born Jan. 18, 1822, was the grandfather of Lieut. Thomas Williams Ashley, and he is therefore the next to claim our attention. Col. Ashley died in 1848 and a letter from his son Thomas to the latter's uncle, Robert Ashley of Lyons, N. Y., describes his death as due to pneumonia brought on by a cold contracted while assisting in butchering hogs. Even in his old age "Col. Tom" "helped take care of the barn and took delight in being busy about something."

This paper would be not complete without a reference to Jonathan Ashley or "Uncle John," the oldest son of Col. Thomas Williams Ashley. He was born May 7, 1816 and died Sept. 8, 1895. I quote from Trowbridge as follows: "Jonathan Ashley received his education at the public schools and academy in his native town. With the exception of two years spent in the West, his whole life was passed on the old homestead of his great-grandfather, Rev. Jonathan Ashley. After the death of his father he and his brother Thomas redeemed the farm from debt, in the face of seemingly unsurmountable difficulties. Shortly afterward he bought his brothers' interests, and by hard work and frugality, he held all the old land and made important additions to it. He built a new and more convenient house, using the old original one, still in a good state of preservation, as a tobacco warehouse. In February 1881, his nephew, Charles H. Ashley, who had lived with him since he was fifteen, became associated with him in farming, and their united efforts made the farm one of the largest in the town.

Mr. Ashley in his prime was one of the "river gods" in influence, and was characterized by that sturdy frugality which marked the early settlers. He was an orthodox farmer in every sense of the word, and was held in the highest respect in the town and community. Of a retiring nature, he avoided all public positions, but was prevailed upon in 1879 to act as a selectman of the town for two years, positively re-

fusing a third nomination. Ever wishing to help the poor and needy, he lost thousands of dollars through his readiness to assist others when in trouble. It could truthfully be said of him that his word was as good as his bond. He spent the last four years of his life in retirement from active business, and at his death his nephew, Charles H. Ashley, inherited all his property."

It was during the life of Jonathan Ashley that the tobacco industry in the Connecticut Valley began to pour golden dollars into the pockets of the thrifty farmers. New England beef had its heyday during this period. Those who would inquire into this industry would do well to read Mr. Sheldon's paper on "The Passing of the Stall-fed Ox and the Farm Boy." In those days before the widespread advent of commercial fertilizer, farmers believed in putting back onto the land what they took off from it and the feeding and fitting of prime steers was indeed an art. The artificial prosperity of to-day is not comparable to the solid foundation of thrift and skill which our ancestors had developed. But I have digressed enough.

Thomas Williams Ashley lived on the ancestral farm until he was 32 years of age. During part of the time he kept a diary which is at hand as I write. Among the interesting notes found in it is the following, dated May 30th, 1848: "Rained. All went to help finish raising R. Stebbins' barn, forenoon H. Hoyt finished pulling down Old Indian house." The diary tells of the struggles the four brothers had to redeem the place from debt. On Apr. 1st, 1848 we read: "John and I went to Greenfield, tendered Abercrombie the money to redeem the farm, would not take it." But on May 12, 1849 "John went to Greenfield, settled with Abercrombie, got a deed of the farm, Mother of the homestead." It appears that the brothers obtained the money from Ely and Day of Holyoke and paid them back by selling logs and wood. Uncle John often remarked in later years that there was "six weeks" sledding in March of that year."

"Thomas Williams Ashley was an honest, upright man, a devout Christian, and did much to promote the cause of religion in the town." (Trowbridge). In his diary we invariably find that he went to church on Sunday, while "John went to pasture to salt the cattle." He received his education in the schools of his native town, and at Powers Institute in Bernardston. In 1844 he married Marietta Hoyt of Bernardston, who died in 1849. He married again in 1851, Lucinda Larrabee of Greenfield. "He resided in Deerfield until 1854, when, with other Deerfield people, he removed to Iowa and settled in a township in Chickasaw County which they named Deerfield in honor of their Massachusetts home.

The country being new, and land cheap, Mr. Ashley made the mistake, like so many others of the early settlers, of buying all the land he could. Consequently, the cheapness of grain and the distance from market (80 miles) made it uphill work farming; and after a few severe winters and a crop famine, he found himself with land enough for a small colony, for which there was no sale, or profit in tilling. He continued farming there, however, and lived there the rest of his life, only once in 1875, revisiting his birthplace." (Trowbridge).

Oh, the hardships of settling a new country! We in our comfortable modern homes, with every convenience at hand, can little realize the struggle of those who followed the advice of Horace Greeley. The letters written to folks back home by Mrs. Ashley are sad and pathetic as the following excerpts show: "We have had a hard time since we left the East. Father's money is all spent and Williams (Thomas Williams Ashley) has had to send to John for more. . . . We are living in an unfinished log house, 12 in one room, cook out doors, short for water. Lumber is short in this country, it is almost impossible to get boards. Williams has got a log house building, a first rate (small log house, hews the logs on all sides and plasters it with mortar." Another letter reads: "I am going

to write to you for assistance but it is hard for me to do so, but I hate to lose our home. I am going to write to you as we are situated; everything seems to go against us here in this new country. . . . last year our wheat crop was a whole failure [Williams] having little more than his seed . . . [he] rode day after day to borrow \$100—finally a speculator let it to him at 30 percent. It is due in the fall. We had to mortgage eighty acres of land, our homestead with the improvements, and unless we can raise the money I fear we shall lose it and if we should, I tremble for what will become of us." And again: "the times are hard here. It is almost impossible to raise money here in the west and 30 percent. is the least interest. One great disadvantage is the want of a market and what we have to buy is very high. Last year the wheat crop failed, this year the buckwheat is all killed and the first of this month there was a hard frost and people think it has spoiled most of the corn." But, underlying the distress and privations of the new country, we feel the sturdy Puritan spirit in the following words: "I would not be willing to go back after sacrificing so much as we have."

Thomas Williams Ashley died Jan. 28, 1888 in Deerfield, Iowa. Of his nine children, the seventh, born Feb. 13, 1860, in Deerfield, Iowa, is Charles Hart Ashley, who now owns and lives on the ancestral farm in Deerfield, Mass.

As it is not fitting to eulogize the living we had best refer once more to the printed record. I quote from Trowbridge: "Charles Hart Ashley experienced the hardships and pleasures which come to a boy in a new and unsettled country. At the age of 15 he went to live with his uncle, Jonathan Ashley, in Deerfield, Mass., [Elihu, son of Jonathan Ashley, having died of scarlet fever at the age of eight]. He attended the Deerfield Academy and Dickinson High school until his twenty-first birthday, when he associated himself with his uncle in the management of the old Ashley homestead, and their united efforts added to

the possessions of the old farm, until now it contains 500 acres and is one of the largest in the town. At the death of his uncle in September, 1895, he inherited the whole of his estate, so that he now owns and occupies the old Ashley place in Deerfield, where his great-great-grandfather, Rev. Jonathan Ashley, settled in 1733." Mr. Ashley has held many public offices in town affairs, including those of assessor and selectman. He was chairman of the local draft board during the World war. At the present writing he is chairman of the board of selectmen and also representative of his district in the State Legislature. For many years he had charge of the music at the annual meetings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, relinquishing this duty only when his legislative duties forced him to be absent at the time the meetings are held.

In 1921 Mr. Ashley erected a modern bungalow on the south half of the home lot. His oldest son, the author of this paper, lives in the house built by Jonathan Ashley and is now associated with his father in carrying on the farm, thus continuing the Ashley tradition. The old place names are still seen in the land purchased by Jonathan Ashley and his nephew Charles: "Pogue's Hole," "Pine Hill Lot," "Great Bottom," "Great Pasture," "Hitchcock Lot," and others. "New Fort" has become "The Island." "Little Plain" and the "Neck" are still called by their original names, but the "west pasture" of Uncle John's day has become the "Old World." Mr. Ashley has disposed of some of the land which he once owned and the present farm comprises about 300 acres.

On Jan. 2, 1889 Charles Hart Ashley married Gertrude G. Porter, daughter of Dr. Ransom N. and Fidelity P. Porter of Deerfield. Of their four children, Thomas Williams Ashley, born Jan. 9, 1894, was of the ninth generation from Robert the Settler. A brief account of his life, cut short in the prime of his manhood, will complete this paper.

In addition to his heritage of

Ashley ancestry, Thomas Williams Ashley was ^{also} possessed of priceless lineage through his mother. The blood of the Mayflower company flowed in his veins. Oh reader, draw aside with me the veil of the past until we come to the bleak December day in the year 1620 when that sturdy band stepped ashore on Plymouth Rock. We see Governor William Bradford, Elder Brewster, the militant Captain Myles Standish, and others. Among them we behold John Alden and the maiden Priscilla Mullins. The romance of these two has been beautifully told time and again. One of their children, Ruth, married John Bass in 1657. Their daughter, Sarah Bass, married Ephraim Thayer in 1691. Their daughter, Sarah Thayer, married Seth Dorman in 1715. Their daughter, Mary Dorman in 1744 married Benjamin Porter, whose ancestor, John Porter, is found in Hingham, Mass., in 1635, and whose great-granddaughter, Gertrude G. Porter, is the mother of Thomas Williams Ashley. With such forebears we may expect that when our country called upon her sons in the hour of need, among the first to respond was Thomas Williams Ashley.

As a boy Tom Ashley worked hard both at home on the farm and in school with his lessons. One of his early tasks was to bring in wood for his teacher at her home. When she asked him one day why he was so careful in laying the bottom sticks of the pile, he replied: "To make a good foundation." That was his unspoken motto through life. Much of his spare time was spent in the woods and streams in the vicinity. He enjoyed trapping and fishing, was a crack shot, and an excellent swimmer. On one occasion his swimming ability saved the life of a companion who had been seized with cramps in the deep whirlpool at Red Rocks. He entered Deerfield Academy and Dickinson High school in 1907 and soon developed a marked versatility in athletics in which his splendid physique and quick thinking stood him in good stead. Under the careful direction of the principal, Mr. Boy-

den, he developed slowly and surely, and upon graduation he had overcome his natural shyness to the extent of delivering a splendid oration on "Our Flag," little dreaming that in seven short years he would be called upon to lay down his life in defense of that flag.

Thomas Ashley entered Amherst College in 1912, where he won the respect and admiration of faculty and students alike with his quiet, unassuming ways, his generous comradeship, and his athletic ability. For three years he was one of the mainstays of the football team, brilliant at all times and only playing the harder when his team went down in defeat. He played on the baseball team, too, although it did not come as naturally to him as some of the other games. In his Junior year basketball as an intercollegiate sport was revived at Amherst and Tom Ashley was elected captain of the team. He declined the honor in his Senior year, thinking it would be for the good of the team if a classmate, who coveted the honor, should be elected. He was a member of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, the earliest one established at Amherst College. He won the Woods prize for the one who had made the greatest improvement in his college course, and also a class cup for being the man who of all his class had done the most for the good of the college. In the class room he showed a marked interest in history and historical problems, perhaps absorbing this tendency from his early life in Deerfield and his intimate acquaintance with Mr. Sheldon.

Thomas Williams Ashley graduated from Amherst College in the class of 1916, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Although he had flattering offers to teach elsewhere, he decided to return to Deerfield and to accept a position in his beloved Alma Mater where he could assist Mr. Boyden in carrying out the plans which were dear to both of them. After a few weeks at the Columbia Summer school he began on what might have been his life work, and taught history and government in the classroom. while out

of doors he took charge of the athletic teams, under Mr. Boyden's direction, and showed the boys not only how to win, but how to win fairly, for fairness, honesty and justice were some of the outstanding features of his character. In fact, he was much sought after in the neighborhood to referee or umpire games of all sorts as his strict impartiality and firm determination received unqualified commendation from all. Tom Ashley had already started life as a useful citizen and would undoubtedly have made a remarkable name for himself in any field of endeavor, had he but been spared to finish what he had so well begun. But it was not so to be.

In the early days of August, 1914, the War Lord of Europe, breaking through the armed peace of the Twentieth Century, flung off all restraint and hurled his blood-mad legions against little Belgium, France and dormant Russia. The British Lion awoke and, calling on her whelps far and near, secured the high seas and sent aid to her hard-pressed neighbors across the channel. Countries and nations were drawn into the horrible vortex of war to satisfy the insatiable greed of the Prussian monster. But "whom the Gods destroy, they first make mad." Heedless of the gathering reserves of his opponents and thinking only of riding to world power through the ruin of the world's civilization the Prussian Kaiser hurled his gauntlet at the feet of neutral America. Diplomatic protests and representations having failed, the United States picked up the gauntlet and on Apr. 6th, 1917, declared war on the German Empire. Thus spin the Fates. Following the declaration of war came the call for volunteers, training camps were opened up and the great machinery was set in motion which might involve a long struggle to the death to rid the world of evil. After considering the navy, Thomas Williams Ashley enlisted in the United States Marines as a provisional second lieutenant on Apr. 13th, 1917, one week after war was declared. When Mrs. Sheldon,

knowing of his great influence over the boys in school and longing to have his splendid work continue, suggested the wisdom of waiting a little longer till the need seemed more imperative, he replied: "My country needs me. Her need is great. I cannot wait, I must go." After spending some time at Norfolk and Quantico, Va., and Winthrop, Md., he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on Dec. 17, 1917. He sailed for France on Mar. 14, 1918, attached to the 134th Co., 2nd Replacement Battalion, arriving at Brest on Mar. 26th. The Battalion was sent to Champlitte, France, for training, finally joining the 2nd Division A. E. F. The Division was soon ordered to the vicinity of Chaumont-en-Vixen, near Beauvais, to support the 1st Division, at that time in line on the Cantigny-Mondidier front. About May 25th, while in that region, Lieut. Ashley was transferred to the 67th Co., 5th Marines. While the Second was awaiting orders to relieve the 1st division, word came that the Germans had broken through along the Chemin-des-Dames and were advancing rapidly toward the Marne.

Ye whose fate it was to stay at home can little realize the crisis of the early summer of 1918. Ludendorff, bending all his energies toward ending the war by a mighty blow, with the Kaiser dictating peace terms from Paris, had struck hard on Mar. 21st, sending the British line back, all but broken, upon Amiens. Another attack to the north took Mt. Kemel and laid the brave defenders of Ypres and the channel towns open to the savage hammering of the German guns. It is here that Gen. Haig issued the orders to fight with "their backs to the wall." A third mighty thrust broke the Allied line on the Craonne plateau, the British and French giving away to such an extent that Ludendorff, who had intended the blow as a minor engagement, and forgetful of strategy, threw in his divisions until they reached the Marne, at Chateau-Thierry. But by this time the Allied command had become unified. Foch had his re-

serves at hand, and at once gave battle. The issue was in doubt until the great offensive of July 18th, when the Allied drive between the Marne and Soissons turned the tide and by Aug. 8th, "the blackest day of the war for Germany," Ludendorff knew that his cause could not hope to prevail.

On May 28th, while still "en repos" near Beauvais, the American 2nd Division received hurried orders to proceed to Meaux and help stay the German advance on Paris. The men entered motor trucks and were soon on the way. The writer, while in line of duty, passed a convoy of these trucks north of Paris. Although tired and travel stained these men had a look of quiet determination on their faces as if realizing the responsibility resting on their shoulders. Nor did they fail. Arriving near Belleau Wood the Division was soon in battle formation, awaiting the order to attack, which came on the night of June 5th. The Prussian Guard, the corps d'elite of the German army, were opposed to them. What followed is best told by a fellow officer, Lieut. R. M. Wilcox, who had been Lieut. Ashley's close companion while in France: "Zero hour was to be 3.45 A. M. I got over to the 67th Co. trenches in time to see Tom with his watch in hand counting the seconds until 3.45, his men watching him confidently. Our barrage had begun and the enemy was replying actively with his artillery but Tom stood there calmly and confidently, at times looking out ahead as though trying to see through the morning half light which hid the enemy although less than two hundred yards in the edge of the next woods. At 3.45 I heard him call to his men 'over you go,' and every man sprang from the trench to follow him." A letter from Lieut. Garvey reads as follows: . . . "I am convinced that I was the last person that saw him [Lieut. Ashley]. I saw him about six or seven o'clock in the morning [June 6th] as I remember it, alone in the middle of a field with a German machine gun, trying to fire it. He was not wounded at the

time I saw him and was untouched when I left. I told him that I was trying to find the line as both of us were ahead of it, and asked if he knew anything about where the other companies were; he replied that he did not know but said nothing to me about the experiences he had. I stayed with him awhile helping with the gun and then went off to see if I could find any of the other companies and to get back to my men. He decided to stay. That is the last time I saw him and he was probably hit shortly after I left, because there were German snipers very close to him, and crawled to the woods near by where he was found by Captain Cook."

Lieut. Ashley is buried in Grave No. 88, Section M, Plot 2, American Cemetery, Belleau Wood, France. You whose fortune it may be to cross the ocean, seek out his grave, give pause, and reflect upon the life of one who was, like the gallant Bayard, "sans peur et sans reproche." I hope that some day his picture may hang upon the wall of the splendid school he so dearly loved and for which he did so much, and under it, graven in lasting bronze, the glorious words, "Dulce et decorum est mori pro patriae," that the youth of future generations may learn of him and profit by his example. There is a splendid poem written by an English author whose name I cannot recall, which reads as follows:

There's a breathless hush in the close
to-night—

Ten to make and the match to win—
A bumping pitch and a blinding light,
An hour to play and the last man in.
And it's not for the sake of a ribboned
coat,

Or the selfish hope of a season's fame:
But his captain's hand on his shoulder
smote—

"Play up! play up! and play the game!"

The sand of the desert is sodden red—
Red with the wreck of a square that
broke;

The Gatling's jammed and the Colonel
dead

And the regiment blind with dust and
smoke.

The river of death has brimmed his banks,
And England's far, and Honor a name,
But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the
ranks—

"Play up! play up! and play the game!"

This is the word that year by year,
While in her place the school is set,
Every one of her sons must hear,
And none that hears it dare forget.

This they all with a joyful mind
Bear through life like a torch in flame,
And falling fling to the host behind—

"Play up! play up! and play the game!"

Thomas Williams Ashley played
the game and played it well, giving
up his life in the performance of
his sacred duty. He may truly say,
in the words of the Apostle Paul,
"I have fought a good fight, I have
finished my course, I have kept the
faith."

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